

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

09/801,949

Examiner

Doug Hutton

Applicant(s)

ANECKI ET AL.

Art Unit

2179

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to the Request for Continued Examination filed on 8 April 2005.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1,2,4-19,21-36 and 38-52.
3. ☒ The drawings filed on 11 June 2001 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 6. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 5. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 2. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 6. <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____ |
| 3. <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____ | 7. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Amendment/Comment |
| 4. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material | 8. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance |
| | 9. <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ |

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EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Josephine E. Chang on 9 June 2005.

The application has been amended as follows:

In the Claims:

1. (previously presented) A method for interactively generating and delivering documents requested by a remote requestor for a recipient other than the requestor via a computer network, comprising:

receiving from the remote requestor via the computer network a document request, the document request including recipient and subject matter information;

generating a document according to the recipient and subject matter information responsive to the document request;

storing the document in a document database;

receiving an approval message from a remote party other than the requestor or the recipient, the approval message indicating approval of the document;

updating an approval status report based on the approval message;

transmitting the approval status report separately from the document in response to a report request; and

transmitting the document to the recipient.

2. (original) The method of Claim 1, further comprising obtaining approval from a document administrator before generating the document.

3. (cancelled)

4. (original) The method of Claim 1, further comprising:

transmitting via the computer network a document generation notice to the requestor; and

receiving via the computer network document transmission instructions from the requestor.

5. (original) The method of Claim 1 wherein transmitting the document to the recipient comprises transmittal by facsimile transmission, the facsimile transmission further including document execution instructions.

6. (original) The method of Claim 1, wherein transmitting the document to the recipient comprises transmittal by electronic mail, the electronic mail further including document execution instructions.

7. (original) The method of Claim 1, further comprising:

receiving a document status request via the computer network from the requestor, the document status request including a recipient identification;

generating a document status report using the document database and the recipient identification; and

transmitting via the computer network the document status report to the requestor.

8. (currently amended) The method of Claim 1, further comprising:

receiving via the computer network a document amendment request from [[a]] the requestor, the document amendment request including a document identifier and subject matter information;

retrieving [[a]] the stored document from the document database using the document identifier;

generating a document amendment using the subject matter information and the retrieved document;

storing the document amendment in the document database; and

transmitting via the computer network the document amendment to the recipient.

9. (original) The method of Claim 8 wherein the document is a version controlled document.

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10. (currently amended) A method for interactively generating and delivering via a computer network non-disclosure agreements requested by a remote marketing representative for a customer other than the marketing representative, comprising:

receiving from the remote marketing representative a non-disclosure agreement request, the non-disclosure agreement request including customer and product information;

receiving an approval message from a remote party other than the marketing representative or the customer, the approval message indicating approval of the ~~document~~ a non-disclosure agreement;

updating an approval status report based on the approval message;

transmitting the approval status report separately from the ~~document~~ non-disclosure agreement in response to a report request;

generating ~~[[a]]~~ the non-disclosure agreement according to the non-disclosure agreement request;

storing the non-disclosure agreement in a non-disclosure agreement database;

transmitting a non-disclosure agreement generation notice to the marketing representative;

receiving non-disclosure transmission instructions from the marketing representative; and

transmitting the non-disclosure agreement to the customer.

11. (currently amended) The method of Claim ~~[[9]]~~ 10 wherein sending the non-disclosure agreement to the customer comprises transmittal by facsimile transmission, the facsimile transmission further including non-disclosure agreement execution instructions.

12. (original) The method of Claim 10, wherein sending the non-disclosure agreement to the customer comprises transmittal by electronic mail, the electronic mail further including non-disclosure agreement execution instructions.

13. (original) The method of Claim 10 wherein the non-disclosure agreement is a version controlled non-disclosure agreement.

14. (currently amended) The method of Claim 10, further comprising:

receiving a non-disclosure agreement amendment request from ~~[[a]]~~ the marketing representative, the non-disclosure agreement amendment including a non-disclosure agreement identification and subject matter information;

retrieving ~~[[a]]~~ the non-disclosure agreement from the non-disclosure agreement database using the non-disclosure agreement identification;

generating a non-disclosure agreement amendment using the subject matter information and the retrieved non-disclosure agreement; and

transmitting the non-disclosure agreement amendment to the customer.

15. (original) The method of Claim 14 wherein sending the non-disclosure agreement to the customer comprises transmittal by facsimile transmission, the facsimile transmission further including non-disclosure agreement execution instructions.

16. (original) The method of Claim 14, wherein sending the non-disclosure agreement to the customer comprises transmittal by electronic mail, the electronic mail further including non-disclosure agreement execution instructions.

17. (currently amended) The method of Claim 14, wherein the non-disclosure agreement is a version controlled non-disclosure agreement ~~controlled~~.

18. (previously presented) A data processing system adapted to interactively generate and deliver documents requested by a remote requestor for a recipient other than the requestor via a computer network, comprising:

a processor; and

a memory operably coupled to the processor and having program instructions stored therein, the processor being operable to execute the program instructions, the program instructions including:

receiving from the remote requestor via the computer network a document request, the document request including recipient and subject matter information;

generating a document according to the recipient and subject matter information responsive to the document request;

storing the document in a document database;
receiving an approval message from a remote party other than the requestor or the recipient, the approval message indicating approval of the document;
updating an approval status report based on the approval message;
transmitting the approval status report separately from the document in response to a report request; and
transmitting the document to the recipient.

19. (original) The data processing system of Claim 18, the instructions further including obtaining approval from a document administrator before generating the document.

20. (cancelled)

21. (original) The data processing system of Claim 18, the instructions further including:
transmitting via the computer network a document generation notice to the requestor; and
receiving via the computer network document transmission instructions from the requestor.

22. (original) The data processing system of Claim 18 wherein the document transmitting instructions include transmittal by facsimile transmission, the facsimile transmission further including document execution instructions.

23. (original) The data processing system of Claim 18 wherein the document transmitting instructions include transmittal by electronic mail, the electronic mail further including document execution instructions.

24. (original) The data processing system of Claim 18, the instructions further including:
receiving a document status request via the computer network from the requestor, the document status request including a recipient identification;
generating a document status report using the document database and the recipient identification; and
transmitting via the computer network the document status report to the requestor.

25. (currently amended) The data processing system of Claim 18, the instructions further including:
receiving via the computer network a document amendment request from [[a]] the requestor, the document amendment request including a document identifier and subject matter information;

retrieving [[a]] the stored document from the document database using the document identifier;

generating a document amendment using the subject matter information and the retrieved document;

storing the document amendment in the document database; and

transmitting via the computer network the document amendment to the recipient.

26. (original) The data processing system of Claim 25 wherein the document is a version controlled document.

27. (currently amended) A data processing system adapted to interactively generate and deliver non-disclosure agreements requested by a remote marketing representative for a customer other than the marketing representative, comprising:

a processor; and

a memory operably coupled to the processor and having program instructions stored therein, the processor being operable to execute the program instructions, the program instructions including:

receiving from the marketing representative a non-disclosure agreement request, the non-disclosure agreement request including customer and product information;

receiving an approval message from a remote party other than the marketing representative or the customer, the approval message indicating approval of ~~the document~~ a non-disclosure agreement;

updating an approval status report based on the approval message;

transmitting the approval status report separately from the ~~document~~ non-disclosure agreement in response to a report request;

generating ~~[[a]]~~ the non-disclosure agreement according to the non-disclosure agreement request;

storing the non-disclosure agreement in a non-disclosure agreement database;

transmitting a non-disclosure agreement generation notice to the marketing representative;

receiving non-disclosure agreement transmission instructions from the marketing representative; and

transmitting the non-disclosure agreement to the customer.

28. (original) The data processing system of Claim 27 wherein the non-disclosure agreement is a version controlled non-disclosure agreement.

29. (original) The data processing system of Claim 27, the instructions further including sending the non-disclosure agreement to the customer by facsimile transmission, the

facsimile transmission further including non-disclosure agreement execution instructions.

30. (original) The data processing system of Claim 27, the instructions further including sending the non-disclosure agreement to the customer by electronic mail, the electronic mail further including non-disclosure agreement execution instructions.

31. (currently amended) The data processing system of Claim 27, the instructions further including:

receiving a non-disclosure agreement amendment request from [[a]] the marketing representative, the non-disclosure agreement amendment including a non-disclosure agreement identification and subject matter information;

retrieving [[a]] the non-disclosure agreement from the non-disclosure agreement database using the non-disclosure agreement identification;

generating a non-disclosure agreement amendment using the subject matter information and the retrieved non-disclosure agreement; and

transmitting the non-disclosure agreement amendment to the customer.

32. (original) The data processing system of claim 31 wherein the non-disclosure agreement is a version controlled non-disclosure agreement.

33. (original) The data processing system of Claim 31, the instructions further including sending the non-disclosure agreement to the customer by facsimile transmission, the facsimile transmission further including non-disclosure agreement execution instructions.

34. (original) The data processing system of Claim ~~[[27]]~~ 31, the instructions further including sending the non-disclosure agreement to the customer by electronic mail, the electronic mail further including non-disclosure agreement execution instructions.

35. (previously presented) A computer-readable storage medium embodying computer program instructions for execution by a computer, the computer program instructions adapting a computer to interactively generate and deliver documents requested by a remote requestor for a recipient other than the requestor via a computer network, the computer program instructions comprising:

receiving from the remote requestor via the computer network a document request, the document request including recipient and subject matter information;

generating a document according to the recipient and subject matter information responsive to the document request;

storing the document in a document database;

receiving an approval message from a remote party other than the requestor or the recipient, the approval message indicating approval of the document;

updating an approval status report based on the approval message;

transmitting the approval status report separately from the document in response to a report request; and

transmitting the document to the recipient.

36. (original) The computer-readable storage medium of Claim 35, the instructions further comprising obtaining approval from a document administrator before generating the document.

37. (cancelled)

38. (original) The computer-readable storage medium of Claim 35, the instructions further comprising:

transmitting via the computer network a document generation notice to the requestor; and

receiving via the computer network document transmission instructions from the requestor.

39. (original) The computer-readable storage medium of Claim 35 wherein the document transmitting instructions include transmittal by facsimile transmission, the facsimile transmission further including document execution instructions.

40. (original) The computer-readable storage medium of Claim 35 wherein the document transmitting instructions include transmittal by electronic mail, the electronic mail further including document execution instructions.

41. (original) The computer-readable storage medium of Claim 35, the instructions further comprising:

receiving a document status request via the computer network from the requestor, the document status request including a recipient identification;

generating a document status report using the document database and the recipient identification; and

transmitting via the computer network the document status report to the requestor.

42. (original) The computer-readable storage medium Claim 35, the instructions further comprising:

receiving via the computer network a document amendment request from a requestor, the document amendment request including a document identifier and subject matter information;

retrieving a stored document from the document database using the document identifier;

generating a document amendment using the subject matter information and the retrieved document;

storing the document amendment in the document database; and
transmitting via the computer network the document amendment to the recipient.

43. (original) The computer-readable storage medium of Claim 42 wherein the document is a version controlled document.

44. (currently amended) A computer-readable storage medium embodying computer program instructions for execution by a computer, the computer program instructions adapting a computer to generate and deliver non-disclosure agreements requested by a remote marketing representative for a customer other than the marketing representative, the computer program instructions comprising:

receiving from the remote marketing representative a non-disclosure agreement request, the non-disclosure agreement request including customer and product information;

receiving an approval message from a remote party other than the marketing representative or the customer, the approval message indicating approval of the ~~document~~ a non-disclosure agreement;

updating an approval status report based on the approval message;

transmitting the approval status report separately from the ~~document~~ non-disclosure agreement in response to a report request;

generating ~~[[a]]~~ the non-disclosure agreement according to the non-disclosure agreement request;

storing the non-disclosure agreement in a non-disclosure agreement database;
transmitting a non-disclosure agreement generation notice to the marketing
representative;

receiving non-disclosure transmission instructions from the marketing
representative; and

transmitting the non-disclosure agreement to the customer.

45. (original) The computer-readable storage medium of Claim 44 wherein the non-disclosure agreement is a version controlled non-disclosure agreement.

46. (original) The computer-readable storage medium of Claim 44, the instructions further comprising sending the non-disclosure agreement to the customer by facsimile transmission, the facsimile transmission further including non-disclosure agreement execution instructions.

47. (original) The computer-readable storage medium of Claim 44, the instructions further comprising sending the non-disclosure agreement to the customer by electronic mail, the electronic mail further including non-disclosure agreement execution instructions.

48. (currently amended) The computer-readable storage medium of Claim 44, the instructions further comprising:

receiving a non-disclosure agreement amendment request from [[a]] the marketing representative, the non-disclosure agreement amendment including a non-disclosure agreement identification and subject matter information;

retrieving [[a]] the non-disclosure agreement from the non-disclosure agreement database using the non-disclosure agreement identification;

generating a non-disclosure agreement amendment using the subject matter information and the retrieved non-disclosure agreement; and

transmitting the non-disclosure agreement amendment to the customer.

49. (original) The computer-readable storage medium of Claim 48 wherein the non-disclosure agreement is a version controlled non-disclosure agreement.

50. (original) The computer-readable storage medium of Claim 48, the instructions further comprising sending the non-disclosure agreement to the customer by facsimile transmission, the facsimile transmission further including non-disclosure agreement execution instructions.

51. (original) The computer-readable storage medium of Claim 48, the instructions further comprising sending the non-disclosure agreement to the customer by electronic mail, the electronic mail further including non-disclosure agreement execution instructions.

52. (currently amended) A method for interactively generating and delivering documents via a computer network, the method comprising:

- receiving from a remote computer via the computer network a document request, the document request including recipient and subject matter information;

- searching a database for a document template associated with the document request;

- inserting the recipient and subject matter information into the document template and generating a final document;

- storing the final document in a data store;

- transmitting to the remote computer over the computer network a notification indicative of the generated final document, the notification being transmitted separately from the generated final document;

- receiving an approval message from a remote party other than a party transmitting the document request or a recipient to whom the final document is to be transmitted, the approval message indicating approval of the final document;

- updating an approval status report based on the approval message;

- transmitting the approval status report separately from the final document in response to a report request;

- displaying on the remote computer a plurality of available transmission modes;

- receiving from the remote computer identification of one of the plurality of available transmission modes;

- formatting the final document based on the identified transmission mode; and

transmitting the final document to the a recipient computer over the computer network according to the user identified transmission mode, the final document being transmitted responsive to an indication of an approval of the final document.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 1, 2, 4-19, 21-36 and 38-52 are allowed.

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

Claims 1, 10, 18, 27, 35, 44 and 52:

The closest prior art is Shirley (US 5,692,206), and Kuo (US 6,847,953). Each of the references is separately discussed below in the following text.

Shirley discloses a method and system for automating the generation of a contract. The system allows a user to generate a contract by selecting a particular type of contract and entering data for that contract, such as the names and addresses of the parties to the contract and the relevant dates and financial information. The system automatically enters the appropriate provisions into the contract. The user may edit the text of the provisions and select additional and alternative provisions to customize the contract. The system stores a copy of the original contract, and copies of all revisions made to the contract, in a database. The system also allows the user to email the contract to a remote user. Thus, the users may request a document by specifying

particular information, wherein the document is generated based on the information, stored in a database and transmitted to a recipient.

Kuo discloses a method and system for electronic commerce. The system allows users to place orders on merchant websites. The system includes "Host" servers, which control whether payments are made for the online goods that are purchased by registered users. Each Host stores the statuses of financial transactions of online orders placed by users. The system allows the users to query the status of online orders they have placed on the system. In other words, users may query the Hosts to determine whether payments for the online goods purchased have been authorized. Thus, the users may request an "approval status" report.

However, the prior art fails to disclose or suggest a method for interactively generating and delivering documents via a computer network, wherein a document is generated based on a document request specifying recipient information, stored in a database and transmitted to the recipient, wherein a remote party other than the party making the document request or the recipient may send an approval message that indicates approval of the document, wherein an approval status report is updated based on the approval message, and the approval status report is transmitted separately from the document in response to a report request.

Accordingly, Claims 1, 10, 18, 27, 35, 44 and 52 are allowable.

Claims 2, 4-9, 11-17, 19, 21-26, 28-34, 36 and 38-43 and 45-51:

These claims are dependent upon Claims 1, 10, 18, 27, 35 and 44, and are thus allowable.

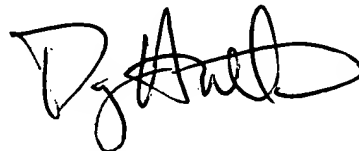
Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Doug Hutton whose telephone number is (571) 272-4137. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday from 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Heather Herndon, can be reached at (571) 272-4136. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (703) 872-9306.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (571) 272-2100.

WDH
June 9, 2005

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Doug Hutton', with a stylized, looping flourish at the end.

**DOUG HUTTON
PATENT EXAMINER
TECH CENTER 2100**